

April 3, 2017

Assemblymember Susan Talamantes-Eggman
State Capitol
Room 4117
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblymember Talamantes-Eggman,

As the unionized employees at a glass container manufacturing facility in your district, we are writing you to share our view on California's climate change policy. If careful consideration is not followed, California's GHG reduction programs, specifically the cap-and-trade program, could have a devastating impact on workers at the four remaining plants in the state. At one time, there were over 15 glass container-manufacturing plants in California.

We are proud to work in container glass industry and of the work we do – many of us come from families who have worked in glass for multiple generations. However, these jobs and livelihoods are under constant threat. Every year more and more glass bottles are imported into the state from outside of California, directly threatening the positions of in-state employees like us. Many of these containers are produced in jurisdictions that do not operate a cap-and-trade program and often have more affordable energy.

As the California legislature begin to work on the updating the existing cap-and-trade program, it is absolutely necessary to maintain a level playing field, and not put the remaining factories in the state at a greater disadvantage. As such, our request is for the legislature to maintain some of the key elements of the current cap-and-trade program beyond 2020, including: (1) preserving the existing 100% allocation of allowances for energy-intensive, trade exposed industries; (2) providing continued early action credit for industries that have invested in the use of recycled material in their process, therefore, reducing GHG emissions; and (3) preserving a benchmark that provides flexibility and opportunity for growth in the state.

We appreciate your support.